133 Neringa* presents a remarkable natural wonder. It is a long strip of earth stretching several tens of kilometers to the south, separating the Baltic Sea from Kurshiu Marios (Courland Spit). It is covered in places by young woodland or low pines, and in some places magnificent sand dunes rise, which around the hamlet of Nida are the highest in Europe. Lithuania's largest river is the Nemunas (Neman). It is navigable from the Alytus. Its most important tributaries inside Lithuania are the Neris (which in turn has its tributaries Shventoiya* and Nevezys), and also the Dubysa and the Sheshupe.

The lowest parts of Lithuania are swampy. There are especially many swamps in the Siauliai area and to the west from the middle of the Nemunas.

137 Wooded surface comprised before the Second World War, 19 percent of the whole Republic. About two-thirds of the woods are coniferous, and about one-third is deciduous. Among the coniferous varieties fir trees and pines predominate. Among the deciduous varieties the ash, the birch, the aspen, and, less often, the alder and oak predominate. The meadows are covered with dense, mellow grass. The natural pastures, and also fodder grass, are the basis for the development of animal husbandry.

132 Owing to the proximity of the sea, the climate is damp and mild. There are no severe winters and no dry winds. The average annual temperature is from plus 6.5° to 7° C.; the average temperature in /5/ January is from minus 2.5° to minus 4.7°; in July it is from plus 17° to 18.6°.

162 The population of Soviet Lithuania (according to the statistics of 1940) is 3,150,000. The bulk of the population consists of Lithuanians (80 per cent). In addition there are Russians, Poles, White Russians, Jews, and Latvians.

● 631 Administratively Soviet Lithuania is divided into 41 uyezds, 320 volosts, and 2,774 apilinks (selsoviets).

361 The capital of the Republic is Vilnius. The city of Vilnius was founded in the tenth century and has been the capital since 1323. It is situated at the junction of the rivers Vilnele (Vileika) and Neris, on the shores of both rivers.

The largest cities of the Republic are Kaunas, Klaipeda, Siauliai, Panivezhis.

135 In the Republic there are rich resources in water power, of peat and mineral construction material.

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642
● 829 Art. 14. The Lithuanian SSR consists of the districts of Alitus, Anikshchyni, Birzhai, Varena, Vilkavishkis, Vilnyus, Zarasai, Ionishkis, Kaishyadoris, Kaunas, Kedainyai, Kelmena, Klaipeda, Krotinga, Kupishkis, Kurshenai, Lazdiyai, Mazheikyai, Mariyampole, Pagegyai, Prienveshis, Pasvalis, Plunge, Prenai, Radvilishkis, Raseinyai, Rokishkis, Taurage, Telshai, Trakai, Ukmerge, Utyana, Shakyai, Shvenchonis, Shilute, Shyaulyai, Yurbarkas; and of the cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Shyaulyai and Panevezhis which do not form part of districts.

Art. 15. The Lithuanian SSR reserves the right freely to secede from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 16. The territory of the Lithuanian SSR may not be altered without its consent.

[206] Art. 16a. The Lithuanian SSR has its own Republican military formations.

[648] Art. 16b. The Lithuanian SSR has the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states and to conclude agreements and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them.

Art. 17. The laws of the USSR are binding within the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

[641] Art. 18. Every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR is a citizen of the USSR. Citizens of all other Union Republics enjoy on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR equal rights with citizens of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 19. The jurisdiction of the Lithuanian SSR, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, embraces:

a) Adoption of the Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR and control over its observance;

b) Establishment of the administrative-territorial divisions of the Lithuanian SSR and of the boundaries of districts and volosts;

c) Legislation of the Lithuanian SSR;

d) Maintenance of public order and safeguarding the rights of citizens;

e) Approval of the national-economic plan of the Lithuanian SSR;

f) Approval of the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR and of the report on its fulfilment;

g) Determination of state and local taxes, imposts and non-tax revenues in conformity with the laws of the USSR, as well as direction of the fulfilment of local budgets;

h) Direction of insurance and savings;

i) Administration of the banks, industrial, agricultural and trading enterprises and organizations subordinate to the Republic, as well as direction of local industry;

j) Control and superintendence of the condition and administration of enterprises subordinate to the Union;

k) Establishment of the procedure governing the use of land, mineral wealth, forests and waters;

l) Direction of dwelling-houses and the municipal economy, dwelling house construction and the modernization of cities and other inhabited places;

m) Road Building; direction of local transport and communications;

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645

The Ministry of the Building Materials Industry
The Ministry of the Fish Industry
The Ministry of Agriculture
The Ministry of State Farms
The Ministry of Trade
The Ministry of Finance
The Ministry of Justice;

The following Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR are Republican:
The Ministry of the Municipal Economy
The Ministry of Local Industry
The Ministry of Construction
The Ministry of Education
The Ministry of Social Maintenance.

Art. 49. Each Union-Republican Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directs the branch of state administration of the Lithuanian SSR entrusted to it, with the exception only a limited number of enterprises, according to a list confirmed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and is subordinate both to the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and the corresponding Union-Republican Ministry of the USSR.

Art. 50. Each Republican Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directs the branch of state administration entrusted to it and is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 51. The Government of the Lithuanian SSR or a Minister of the Lithuanian SSR to whom a question of a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is addressed must give a verbal or written reply in the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR within a period not exceeding three days.

Chapter V. The Local Organs of State Power

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Art. 52. The organs of state power in districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 53. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki are elected by the working people of the respective districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki for a term of two years.

Art. 54. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki direct cultural, political and economic affairs on their territory, draw up the local budgets, direct the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, assist in strengthening the defensive capacity of the country and ensure the observance of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens.

Art. 55. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies adopt decisions and issue orders within the limits of the powers vested in them by the laws of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 56. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki is the Executive Committee elected by it, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman a Secretary and members.

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631 [623] Art. 57. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies in small localities is the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 58. The Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies exercise guidance in cultural, political and economic affairs within their territory on the basis of decisions taken by the corresponding Soviets of Working People's Deputies and superior state organs.

Art. 59. Sessions of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their Executive Committees not less than four times a year.

Art. 60. Sessions of volost Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than six times a year.

[623] Art. 61. Sessions of Soviets of Working People's Deputies of cities, small towns and apilinki are convened by their respective executive organs not less than once a month.

Art. 62. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies each elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the duration of their sessions to conduct the sittings of the sessions.

Art. 63. The executive organs of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies are directly accountable both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies which elected them and to the executive organs of the respective superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 64. The superior Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Executive Committees and to suspend decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 65. The superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies and of their Executive Committees.

632 Art. 66. The district Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Roads
- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Agriculture
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committees. In addition, in accordance with the specific features of the economy of the district, the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies may set up other Departments or Administrations subject to confirmation by the corresponding Ministries.

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[625] Art. 67. The all-Union Ministries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the
632 Lithuanian SSR and the Ministry of State Security of the Lithuanian SSR set up their Administrations under the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies in accordance with the conditions of the district and on the basis of the laws of the USSR and of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 68. The Departments and Administrations of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR.

633 Art. 69. The city Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its suburban and municipal economy,

- a Department of Local Industry and
- a Department of Agriculture.

Art. 70. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 71. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Shyaulyai and Panevezhis city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these cities and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directly.

● 631 Art. 72. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

646 Art. 73. The state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is drawn up by the Council
652 of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval.

[645] Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is published for general information.

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646 652 Art. 74. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 75. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and published for general information.

631 652 Art. 76. The budgets of the district, city, volost, small town and apilinki Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imports in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 77. In the Lithuanian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR, the District and People's Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

[693] Art. 78. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 79. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Lithuanian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR.

[641] Art. 80. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 81. District Courts are elected by the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies for a term of five years.

Art. 82. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the cities and volosts on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 [563] Art. 83. Judicial proceedings in the Lithuanian SSR are conducted in the Lithuanian and Russian languages, persons not knowing these languages being guaranteed the opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 84. In all Courts of the Lithuanian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to defense.

693 Art. 85. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 86. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Lithuanian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR.